GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2234
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
MOBILE AND TELEPHONE SERVICES
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities/rural areas which have not been covered by telephone and mobile service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), State-wise;

(b) the targets set by the Government for the year 2008 and the status of work done in this regard;

(c) the time by which all States and rural areas of the country would be connected by these services of the BSNL;and

(d) the details of schemes being formulated for making BSNL mobile services better than private mobile services?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Sir, as on 31.10.2008, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has covered all District Headquarters and 15,989 cities / towns with GSM based mobile services. Out of 5,93,601 villages, BSNL has already covered 2,74,960 villages with mobile services.Circle-wise details are given in Annexure-I. Fixed telephone services on WLL have also been provided in 2,589 Short Distance Charging Area (SDCAs) out of 2,642 SDCAs. Circle-wise details are given in Annexure-II.

(b) BSNL plans to expand the mobile service coverage to all the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years.

(c) The balance SDCAs will be covered subject to techno-commercial feasibility. The provision of mobile network being capital intensive can be done only in phases and as such BSNL is providing services in phased manner based on techno-commercial viability of different areas.

(d) BSNL is augmenting its wireless network progressively in the country within its service area so as to enhance coverage, capacity and Quality of Service. BSNL is also optimizing its network regularly for improvement of performance. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per the Quality of Service parameters prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).